

## **I. AMENDMENT**

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An isolated and purified DNA [nucleic acid molecule] encoding an infectious GBV-C, wherein the DNA encodes an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the molecule is about 9.4 kilobases in length.

Claim 5 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 6 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid sequence.

Claim 7 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide.

Claim 8 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6, wherein the polypeptide is a mammalian polypeptide.

Claim 9 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a heterologous promoter.

Claim 10 (original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 9, wherein the heterologous promoter promotes transcription in a prokaryote.

Claim 11(original): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein the promoter is T7, T3, or Sp6.

Claims 12 - 62 (canceled)

Claim 63 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA encodes an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 64 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 63, wherein the DNA encodes an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 65 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises 500 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 66 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 65, wherein the DNA comprises 1000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 67 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 66, wherein the DNA comprises 2000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

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Claim 68 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 67, wherein the DNA comprises 5000 contiguous nucleotides that are identical or complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 69 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises a 3' ntr or a 5' ntr of GBV-C.

Claim 70 (new): The isolated and purified DNA of claim 69, wherein the DNA comprises a 3' ntr and a 5' ntr of GBV-C.